



Welcome to Moe Lutheran

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near. **Amen.**

LITANY:

On this third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of joy.

Let us shout and be glad!

Our God delights in us, giving joy for sadness!

Our God waits for us, turning darkness to light!

Our joy is in God’s saving grace.

We rejoice in the salvation of our God!

Today we light candles for HOPE, PEACE, and JOY!

Two blue and one pink candle are lit on the Advent wreath

WE SING: *Melody: “Away in a Manger”*

In darkness surrounded, the world waits for light
to shatter the shadowy darkness of night.

To green’ry encircled, the faithful draw near
And longingly listen, God’s message to hear.

Three flames, how they flicker, and tremble, and shake,
As shepherds from fear into joy did awake.

As they_ shared with joy_ the great news of Christ’s birth,
May we_ share the news_ with excitement and mirth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lift up the hearts of all who look to you, Lord God, and increase our joy in your presence! Transformed by the message of your great love for all people, let us joyfully live to share this good news with others. Amen.

MOE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,**

- 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
- 50 **indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.**
- 51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 52 **He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;**
- 53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
- 54 **He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,**
- 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Refrain to “Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the

wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON SONG: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW 256

SERMON

CREED for ADVENT

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.

**The one who is full of patience,
who is not afraid of silence,**

who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.

**The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not jostle for attention.**

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,

**who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,**

who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,

who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,

who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,

whose silence overpowered their words,

who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

**who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,**

sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God

who patiently waits for us,

and who longs for us to do the same.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

What Child Is This

For Advent or Christmas

E Minor: Em D G D B7 Em Am/C
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B7
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em Bm G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is

D B7 Em Am/C B
Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D B7 Em Am B Em (or E Major)
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: 16th Century English Melody

GREENSLEEVES
87.87 with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003
Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address:
music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CHRISTMAS HYMN OF EXPECTATION:

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

ELW 270

DISMISSAL: *Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.*

Prayer for Lighting Advent Wreath at Home

God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season. Amen.

